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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO A SINGLE-PAYOR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is a crucial  
2 need for access to health care in the State that is not being  
3 met by the federal or state government, health care providers,  
4 or insurance programs. The medical rate of inflation exceeds  
5 wage growth and the overall rate of inflation, making it more  
6 difficult for individuals to keep up with the rising costs of  
7 even the most basic health care. The legislature further finds  
8 that the health care crisis in Hawaii worsens as more and more  
9 people lose jobs and, consequently, their health insurance  
10 coverage.

11           The legislature finds that uninsured individuals tend to be  
12 sicker and die earlier than individuals with insurance because  
13 they delay seeking treatment and have their illnesses diagnosed  
14 at later stages. Uninsured persons often rely on the provision  
15 of basic health care in emergency rooms. This practice  
16 increases medical malpractice insurance costs for physicians and  
17 hospitals, impedes access to hospitals and emergency rooms for  
18 other patients who are acutely ill, and leads to attrition among



1 physicians and an inability to recruit new physicians to the  
2 State.

3 The legislature finds that the coordination of a single-  
4 payor, state-operated insurance system for health care for every  
5 resident may alleviate many existing problems and may be  
6 achievable with the coordination of the department of health,  
7 state and county health programs, health care providers, and  
8 insurance programs to consolidate funding sources and create  
9 economies of scale in providing health care services.

10 The purpose of this Act is to direct the department of  
11 health to study the delivery of health care in Hawaii and the  
12 feasibility of a single-payor health care system.

13 SECTION 2. No later than January 1, 2010, the department  
14 of health shall prepare a study of health care delivery in  
15 Hawaii that addresses:

- 16 (1) Improving access to care for all residents;
- 17 (2) Methods to improve overall health of residents;
- 18 (3) Measures to reduce the costs of health care coverage;
- 19 and
- 20 (4) Feasibility of a single-payor health care system.

21 SECTION 3. The department of health shall submit a report  
22 of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed



1 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior  
2 to the convening of the regular session of 2011.

3 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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Mary B. Lee  
Tom Brown  
Bryan

JAN 27 2009

**Report Title:**

Health Care; Single-Payor System

**Description:**

Directs the department of health to study the delivery of health care in Hawaii to determine the feasibility of a single-payor health care system.

